

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, MX, UN

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA

1. EXCELSIOR ON OCT. 16 SUMMARIZES REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PUBLISHED IN THIS WEEK'S NEWSWEEK. DEPT UNDOUBTEDLY FAMILIAR WITH ARTICLE WHICH EXCELSIOR HIGHLIGHTS AS FOLLOWS. ECHEVERRIA DOUBTS THAT HE HAS MUCH CHANCE OF BECOMING UN SEC GEN AND, IF HE SHOULD WIN THE POST, "HE DOESN'T KNOW IF HE WOULD BE A GOOD SECRETARY GENERAL". "...I WOULD BE MOST PASSIONATELY ON THE SIDE OF THE POOR COUNTRIES." "THUS MY STRUGGLE, IF I WERE SECRETARY GENERAL, WOULD NOT BE IMPARTIAL. TRYING TO MAKE THE RICH NATIONS PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE POOR, I COULD NOT BE A CONCILIATOR WHO WOULD AVOID FRICTION. I THINK THAT I WOULD CAUSE EVEN MORE FRICTION ON BEHALF OF THE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ON THE POINT OF SINKING." "THUS MY CHANCES OF BEING SECRETARY GENERAL ARE VERY LIMITED UNLESS THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD DECIDE TO BECOME A LITTLE MORE HUMAN AND THE UNSC, WHICH IS DOMINATED BY THE RICH COUNTRIES, SHOULD DECIDE TO ADOPT A THIRD WORLD POLICY."

2. ECHEVERRIA ALSO COMMENTED ON THE ROLE OF TRANS-

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NATIONALS ASSERTING THAT THEY COULD COOPERATE WITH THE

COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY FUNCTION WITHOUT INTERVENING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS THEY DID IN CHILE. ON SPAIN: "THE UN CAN PLAY A DEFINED ROLE IF THEY DECIDE TO. IN THE UNGA AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED FOR THE UN TO PLAY A ROLE, BUT THERE IS OPPOSITION IN THE UNSC. THE UNSC MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS GREAT DANGER OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS IF SPAIN CANNOT BE MOVED TOWARD A TRYLY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM."

3. PRESS ATTACHE CONTACT IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY HAS ASKED FOR ASSITANCE IN OBTAINING COPY OF NEWSWEEK ON ASSUMPTION THAT THIS EDITION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED DISSEMINATION IN MEXICO. RESTRICTIONS OF DISTRIBUTION, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN SINCE QUOTED COMMENTS DO NOT DIFFER GREATLY FROM PREVIOUS REMARKS BY ECHEVERRIA. HE MAY, HOWEVER, HAVE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION OF HIS EXPRESSED INTENTION TO BE "PARTIAL". IN ANY EVENT, PUBLICATION IN EXCELSIOR MAKES QUESTION OF RESTRICTION ON NEWSWEEK DISTRIBUTION ACADEMIC.

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